

- (1) meet an identifiable public need;
- (2) instill a work ethic and a sense of public service in the participants;
- (3) involve youth operating in crews or a team-based structure; and
- (4) enhance skills development and educational level and opportunities for the participants.

**SEC. 1816. PARTICIPANTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Age enrollment in programs that receive assistance under this subtitle shall be limited to individuals who, at the time of enrollment, are not less than 18 years nor more than 25 years of age, except that summer programs may include individuals not less than 14 years or more than 21 years of age at the time of the enrollment of such individuals.

(b) PARTICIPATION OF DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—Programs that receive assistance under this subtitle shall ensure that at least 50 percent of the participants are economically disadvantaged youth.

(c) SPECIAL CORPSMEMBERS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, program agencies may enroll a limited number of special Corpsmembers over age 25 so that the Energy Conservation Corps may draw on their special skills to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

**SEC. 1817. USE OF VOLUNTEERS.**

The use of volunteer services under this section shall be subject to the condition that such use does not result in the displacement of any participant.

**SEC. 1818. COOPERATION AMONG STATES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

(a) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES.—States operating an Energy Conservation Corps may enter into a compact with participating states to provide for mutual cooperation to manage any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the affected state.

(b) PARTICIPATING STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) The authorized representative of a participating state may request assistance of another party by contracting the authorized representative of that state. The provisions of this agreement shall only apply to requests for assistance made by and to authorized representatives.

(2) There shall be frequent consultation between state officials who have assigned emergency management responsibilities and other appropriate representatives of the party states with affected jurisdictions and the United States Government, with free exchange of information, plans, and resource records relating to emergency capabilities.

**SEC. 1819. FEDERAL SHARE.**

The federal share of the cost of carrying out an Energy Conservation Corps program for which a grant is made under this subtitle is 76 percent of the total cost of the program.

**SEC. 1820. BEST PRACTICES.**

(a) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Corporation shall provide technical assistance to grantees that request assistance and shall disseminate best practices that emerge from the Energy Conservation Corps.

(b) CONTRACT.—In providing training and technical assistance, the Corporation shall contract with a national organization with a proven track record of developing and sustaining Corps, working with the Conservation Corps model, and engaging young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**SEC. 1820A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2010 to achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle for each fiscal year—

(1) 90 percent shall be for grants to eligible entities;

(2) 5 percent shall be technical assistance, and dissemination of best practices; and

(3) 5 percent shall be for evaluation.

**SEC. 1820B. LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To promote Learn and Serve programs that have the potential to reach every student in our public education network and private schools through school-based green service-learning, the Corporation shall establish a competitive grant program for the creation or expansion of such service learning programs.

(b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State Education Agency, Local education Agency, or non-profit organization shall submit an application with such information and in such time as the Corporation may require.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For this purpose, there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary thereafter.

**SEC. 1820C. NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—To promote National Senior Service Corps programs that have the potential to both involve seniors in providing meaningful volunteer opportunities the Corporation shall establish a competitive grant program for the creation or expansion of National Senior Service Corps programs that—

(1) make effective use of the talents and experience of seniors, particularly baby boomers, in programs and projects involving seniors in the improvement of the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and low-income people;

(2) building or helping to supervise energy-efficient “green” housing for elderly and low-income people; the repair, renovation, or rehabilitation of an existing infrastructure facility including, but not limited to, rail, mass transportation, ports, inland navigation, schools and hospitals; transportation enhancements; recreational trails improvements, including those that enable alternative means of transportation and ensure safe use;

(3) volunteering in schools to teach or other support environmental education and energy conservation education for elementary and secondary school students and the public; and

(4) assisting in such other activities as the National Senior Service Corps may identify.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a program in the National Senior Service Corps shall submit an application with such information and in such time as the Corporation may require.

(c) AUTHORIZATION.—For this purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary thereafter.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1015, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise with Mr. SARBANES to offer an amendment today that will establish an energy conservation corps program. This will provide green collar training and educational service grants to nonprofit organizations, universities, and State and local governments. This is really an exciting opportunity for us to create opportunities for young folks to be engaged in this new revolution of clean energy in this country.

The energy conservation corps we envisioned will help revitalize communities and preserve and restore the environment, while also preparing young people for the responsible and productive lives we know they are going to have.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 will create hundreds of thousands of new opportunities for Americans. It will give low-income young people training to fill these green collar jobs that we are now excited about and hope for a prosperous and successful future.

The conservation corps will fund energy conservation installations in public spaces, energy efficient green housing for elderly and low-income people, and restoration of historic structures on public lands. It would also provide funding for and repair, renovation, and rehabbing of existing infrastructure facilities, and transportation enhancements and recreational trail improvements. It is going to help a lot of places that we need energy conservation. It also establishes a competitive grant program to fund National Senior Service Corps programs that will involve seniors in providing meaningful volunteer opportunities.

Now, there are multiple organizations that can participate in this, one of which just as an example is the Student Conservation Association. Under this grant program, they will be able to deploy sustainable community projects which engage disadvantaged and other youth to help communities learn energy saving and water conservation techniques and strategies to prevent pollution.

In this program, SCA corps members will be able to provide a variety of energy-related services to homeowners, schools, and businesses, and communities. These services include outreach and education, facility audits, development of energy reduction strategies, and implementation in support of these programs. As part of this program, corps members will receive training, career development, and life skills while helping communities benefit from these sustainable programs.

I am familiar with this organization, the SCA. My parents led Student Conservation Association efforts with young people in Mt. Rainier National Park back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and I saw how important these programs were both to help these communities, and to help the young folks themselves. Because what we have learned is, and what I saw firsthand when my folks worked with the SCA kids, once kids get involved in volunteer programs, once they get involved in their communities, once they get involved in clean energy, they are never going to turn back. This is going to be a lifetime pursuit, and there is nothing better we can do to help both kids' lives but this clean energy revolution we are going to launch in this country.

So, by establishing the energy conservation corps, we will help make our